

## **Speech Hon. Pedro Comissario Afonso, Head of the Mozambique Delegation**

**Madam President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,  
Madam President of the 151th Assembly,**

**Excellencies,**

It is with great honor that, on behalf of Her Excellency Margarida Adamugi Talapa, Speaker of the Assembly of the Republic of Mozambique, I address this august Assembly to speak on our theme: *“respecting humanitarian norms and supporting humanitarian action in times of crisis”*.

It is a relevant topic, indeed, because we are living in times of humanitarian crisis. And every crisis brings human suffering.

The massive displacement of civilians from their regions of origin to other unknown regions results in loss of homes, the breakdown of social ties, and extreme vulnerability of populations. In many cases, the massive displacement of populations also puts tremendous pressure on neighboring countries that are already facing their own internal challenges of development and stability.

Armed conflicts, natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, droughts, tsunamis and hurricanes are the root cause of the humanitarian crises we face today.

In the 50 years of our independence, we have experienced humanitarian crises that range cyclically from external aggression to natural disasters and terrorism. For example, in our country, in some districts of Cabo Delgado Province, we have been experiencing acts of terrorism and violent extremism for about eight years, which have caused a large number of deaths and internally displaced persons, most of them women and children.

In addition, our country has been affected by climate change.

Droughts, floods and cyclones have become more frequent and are a growing concern for the country.

It is in this context that, in a clear demonstration of commitment and responsibility, the Government of Mozambique has been working closely with other states, the United Nations and other non-government organisations to tackle the challenge of the humanitarian crisis.

**Madam President,**

We, as legislators, have our share of responsibility in the process of creating a better world, free from humanitarian crises. In particular, we have the duty to translate our political will into an unwavering decision to promote compliance and respect for international humanitarian law (IHL).

Each of our countries is encouraged to domesticate the principles and norms of IHL and translate them into national policies and laws to strengthen humanitarian protection.

Parliamentary diplomacy can leverage the promotion of the values of multilateralism and the United Nations Charter. We can deepen the sense of solidarity and broaden the scope of international cooperation to address humanitarian crises.

We must assume our collective responsibility to protect the most vulnerable and ensure that humanitarian responses meet the needs of displaced populations, especially women and young people.

We believe that through solidarity, cooperation and a renewed commitment to the principles of justice, humanity and peaceful conflict resolution, we can overcome crises and build a more peaceful and prosperous future for all.

**Thank you!**